

CLAIMS

I claim:

- 1 1. A network message storage and delivery system, comprising:
  - 2 means for receiving an incoming call and for detecting an address signal
  - 3 associated with said incoming call, said address signal associated with a user of said
  - 4 message storage and delivery system;
  - 5 means for receiving a message accompanied with said address signal, said
  - 6 message being in a first file format;
  - 7 means for converting said message from said first file format to a second file
  - 8 format;
  - 9 means for storing said message in said second file format in a storage area;
  - 10 means for receiving a request from said user for said message and for
  - 11 retrieving said message from said storage area; and
  - 12 means for transmitting a least a portion of said message in said second file
  - 13 format to said user over a transmission link;
  - 14 wherein said portion of said message is transmitted to said user over the
  - 15 network, said second file format is a mixed media page layout language and
  - 16 comprises a standard generalized mark-up language.

1           2.     A network message storage and delivery system, comprising:

2           means for receiving an incoming call and for detecting an address signal

3           associated with said incoming call, said address signal associated with a user of said

4           message storage and delivery system;

5           means for receiving a message accompanied with said address signal, said

6           message being in a first file format;

7           means for converting said message from said first file format to a second file

8           format;

9           means for storing said message in said second file format in a storage area;

10          means for receiving a request from said user for said message and for

11          retrieving said message from said storage area; and

12          means for transmitting a least a portion of said message in said second file

13          format to said user over a transmission link;

14          wherein said portion of said message is transmitted to said user over the

15          network, said second file format is a mixed media page layout language, and said

16          network comprises the Internet.

- 1        3.     A network message storage and delivery system, comprising:
  - 2            a central processor for receiving an incoming call, for detecting an address
  - 3            signal on said incoming call, for detecting a message on said incoming call, and for
  - 4            placing said message in a storage area, said address signal being associated with a
  - 5            user of said network message storage and delivery system;
  - 6            a network server for receiving said message from said storage area, for
  - 7            converting said message into a mixed media page layout language, and for placing
  - 8            said message in said storage area;
  - 9            wherein when said network server receives a request from said user over said
  - 10          network, said network server transmits at least a portion of said message over said
  - 11          network to said user over a transmission link and wherein said network comprises the
  - 12          Internet and said network server comprises an Internet server.

1                   4.        A method of storing and delivering a message for a user, comprising  
2        the steps of:

3                   receiving an incoming call and detecting an address signal associated with said  
4        incoming call, said address signal associated with a user;

5                   receiving a message associated with said address signal, said message being in  
6        a first file format;

7                   converting said message from said first file format to a second file format;

8                   storing said message in said second file format in a storage area;

9                   receiving a request from said user for said message and retrieving said  
10      message from said storage area; and

11                  transmitting at least a portion of said message in said second file format to said  
12      user over a transmission link;

13                  wherein said step of transmitting occurs over a network, said step of  
14      converting said message converts said message into a mixed media page layout  
15      language, and said step of transmitting occurs over the Internet.

1           5.     A system for receiving and storing a message signal directed to an  
2     intended recipient and for relaying the message signal to a computer, comprising:  
3            a telephone interface for receiving an incoming call from a public switched  
4     telephone network, the incoming call including the message signal;  
5            a central processor for receiving the message signal from the telephone  
6     interface and for storing the message signal in a storage medium;  
7            a hyper-text transfer protocol deamon for receiving a request for the message  
8     signal from the computer and for forwarding the request to a network server, the  
9     request from the computer being formatted in a hyper-text transfer protocol; and  
10           the network server, in response to receiving the request from the hyper-text  
11     transfer protocol deamon, forwarding at least a part of the message signal to the  
12     hyper-text transfer protocol deamon;  
13           wherein the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon transmits at least part of the  
14     message signal to the computer.

1           6.     The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the network server converts  
2     the message signal from a first file format into a standard generalized mark-up  
3     language.

1           7.     The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the central processor  
2     converts the message signal from a first file format into a standard generalized mark-  
3     up language.

1           8.     The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the hyper-text transfer  
2     protocol deamon transmits the message in a hyper-text mark-up language.

1           9.     The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the hyper-text transfer  
2     protocol deamon transmits the message in a hand-held device mark-up language.

1           10.    The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the hyper-text transfer  
2     protocol deamon transmits the message in an extensible mark-up language.

1           11.    The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the hyper-text transfer  
2     protocol deamon transmits the message in a virtual reality mark-up language.

1           12.    The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the hyper-text transfer  
2     protocol deamon receives the request from the computer through the Internet.

1           13. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the hyper-text transfer  
2           protocol deamon receives the request from the computer through an intranet.

1           14. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the telephone interface  
2           receives an address signal as part of the incoming call and the central processor stores  
3           the message signal in a directory associated with that address signal.

1           15. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the message signal  
2           comprises a facsimile transmission.

1           16. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the message signal  
2           comprises a voice message.

1           17. The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the message signal  
2           comprises a data file.

1           18.    The system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the request sent from the  
2           computer to the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon comprises a search query  
3           specifying at least one search parameter for a desired search, the hyper-text transfer  
4           protocol deamon transfers the search query to the network server, the network server  
5           performs the desired search by identifying all message signals satisfying the at least  
6           one search parameter, and the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon sends results of the  
7           desired search to the computer.

1           19.    The system as set forth in claim 18, wherein the central processor stores  
2           a data entry for each message signal.

1           20.    The system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the data entry comprises a  
2           plurality of fields for identifying the message signal.

1           21.    The system as set forth in claim 19, wherein the central processor stores  
2           the data entry in a relational database.

1           22. The system as set forth in claim 18, wherein the central processor  
2        returns a listing of all message signals contained within the desired search to the  
3        hyper-text transfer protocol deamon and the hyper-text transfer protocol deamon  
4        sends the list to the computer.

1           23. A method for receiving and storing a message signal directed to an  
2        intended recipient and for relaying the message signal to a computer, comprising the  
3        steps of:

4           receiving an incoming call from a public switched telephone network, the  
5        incoming call including the message signal;  
6           storing the message signal in a storage medium;  
7           receiving, at a hyper-text transfer protocol deamon, a request for the message  
8        signal from the computer and forwarding the request to a network server;  
9           forwarding at least a part of the message signal from the network server to the  
10        hyper-text transfer protocol deamon; and  
11           transmitting at least part of the message signal from the hyper-text transfer  
12        protocol deamon to the computer.

1           24. The method as set forth in claim 23, further comprising a step of  
2       converting the request from a first file format into a standard generalized mark-up  
3       language.

1           25. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the  
2       request comprises a step of receiving the request in a standard generalized mark-up  
3       language.

1           26. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the  
2       request comprises a step of receiving the request in a hyper-text mark-up language.

1           27. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the  
2       request comprises a step of receiving the request in a hand-held mark-up language.

1           28. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the  
2       request comprises a step of receiving the request in an extensible mark-up language.

1           29. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the  
2 request comprises a step of receiving the request in a virtual reality mark-up language.

1           30. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the  
2 call comprises a step of receiving a facsimile transmission..

1           31. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the  
2 call comprises a step of receiving a voice message.

1           32. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the  
2 call comprises a step of receiving a data file.

1           33. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the  
2 request comprises a step of receiving the request through the Internet.

1           34. The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the  
2 request comprises a step of receiving the request through an intranet.

1           35.    The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving the  
2    request comprises a step of receiving a search query from the computer with the  
3    search query specifying at least one search parameter for a desired search and the  
4    method further comprises the steps of performing the desired search through the  
5    storage and returning results of the desired search to the computer.

1           36.    The method as set forth in claim 35, further comprising a step of storing  
2    a data entry in the storage for each message signal received.

1           37.    The method as set forth in claim 35, wherein the step of returning the  
2    results comprises a step of returning a listing of all message signals contained within  
3    the desired search.

1           38.    The method as set forth in claim 35, further comprising a step of saving  
2    the results of the desired search in the storage.

1                   39.    A computer-readable medium for storing software for use in storing  
2                   and delivering a message signal, the software for use in performing the steps of:  
3                   receiving an incoming call from a public switched telephone network, the  
4                   incoming call including the message signal;  
5                   storing the message signal in a storage medium;  
6                   receiving, at a hyper-text transfer protocol deamon, a request for the message  
7                   signal from the computer and forwarding the request to a network server;  
8                   forwarding at least a part of the message signal from the network server to the  
9                   hyper-text transfer protocol deamon; and  
10                  transmitting at least part of the message signal from the hyper-text transfer  
11                  protocol deamon to the computer